

Senate File 372 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 372

BY DANIELSON

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the activities and duties of the state board
2 of regents and the board's administrative office.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 262.3 Board and board office —
2 prohibited activities.

3 1. A member of the state board of regents, the executive
4 director of the board, and professional staff employed for
5 the administration of the board's office shall not have any
6 business or financial relationship with any person employed by
7 an institution governed by the board.

8 2. A person who registers as a lobbyist pursuant to section
9 68B.36 on behalf of a person who is a member of the state
10 board of regents or on behalf of that member's business or
11 employer shall not, within two years after the termination of
12 such service or employment as a lobbyist, become a lobbyist,
13 state relations officer, or governmental liaison for any
14 office, program, or department of an institution governed or
15 administered by the board.

16 Sec. 2. Section 262.8, Code 2017, is amended to read as
17 follows:

18 **262.8 Meetings — public forums — public readings.**

19 1. The board shall meet four times a year. Special meetings
20 may be called by the board, by the president of the board, or
21 by the executive director of the board upon written request of
22 any five members thereof.

23 2. Each regular meeting of the state board of regents
24 shall begin with at least thirty minutes for public comment if
25 requested by members of the public. A member of the public
26 shall be granted up to five minutes to make comments and may be
27 granted more time by a member of the board.

28 3. At least two members of the state board of regents
29 shall hold public forums at which issues relating to the
30 activities of the board and the institutions the board governs
31 can be discussed and addressed. The forums shall provide
32 the community with opportunities to pose questions, receive
33 answers, and make comments. The board shall divide the
34 state into at least six geographic regions, including but
35 not limited to northwest, southwest, north central, south

1 central, northeast, and southeast Iowa, and shall hold a forum
 2 in accordance with this subsection in each region at least
 3 quarterly. Notice of a forum shall be prominently posted on
 4 the board's internet site at least two weeks prior to the date
 5 of the forum.

6 4. The board shall hold public readings of a proposal at two
 7 regular meetings of the board before the board takes action on
 8 a proposal before the board if the proposal affects an academic
 9 program at an institution governed by the board, or if the
 10 estimated cost of the proposal is one hundred thousand dollars
 11 or more. A quorum of the board must be physically present at
 12 any board meeting that includes a public reading required by
 13 this subsection. The affirmative vote of a majority of the
 14 membership of the board is necessary for any action to be taken
 15 by the board on a proposal subject to this subsection.

16 Sec. 3. Section 262.12, Code 2017, is amended to read as
 17 follows:

18 **262.12 Committees and administrative offices under board.**

19 1. The state board of regents shall also have and exercise
 20 all the powers necessary and convenient for the effective
 21 administration of its office and of the institutions under
 22 its control, and to this end may create such committees,
 23 offices and agencies from its own members or others, and employ
 24 persons to staff the same, fix their compensation and tenure
 25 and delegate thereto, or to the administrative officers and
 26 faculty of the institutions under its control, such part of the
 27 authority and duties vested by statute in the board, and shall
 28 formulate and establish such rules, outline such policies and
 29 prescribe such procedures therefor, all as may be desired or
 30 determined by the board as recorded in their minutes.

31 2. The board of regents shall publish on its internet
 32 site specific criteria, including qualification requirements
 33 and preferences, for electing a president of any institution
 34 of higher learning governed by the board pursuant to section
 35 262.9, subsection 2.

1 3. The board shall determine and adopt by rule the necessary
 2 qualifications, abilities, experience, and technical knowledge
 3 required for each position of employment within the office
 4 of the board. Notwithstanding subsection 1, in filling
 5 any position of employment in the office of the board, the
 6 executive director shall post public notice of the position
 7 title, the qualifications for the position, and the application
 8 deadline to fill the position on the board's internet site at
 9 least two weeks before the deadline. The executive director
 10 shall review each applicant's qualifications and shall approve
 11 the employment of an applicant only when the applicant's
 12 qualifications meet the minimum job qualifications for the
 13 position as established by the board.

EXPLANATION

15 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
 16 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

17 This bill relates to activities and duties of the state
 18 board of regents, the executive director of the board, and the
 19 persons employed in the office of the state board.

20 The bill provides that the board and its executive director
 21 and professional staff in the board's office are prohibited
 22 from having any business or financial relationship with any
 23 person employed by an institution governed by the board.

24 A person who registers as a lobbyist on behalf of a person
 25 who is a member of the board or on behalf of that member's
 26 business or employer shall not within two years after the
 27 termination of such service or employment as a lobbyist become
 28 a lobbyist, state relations officer, or governmental liaison
 29 for any office, program, or department of an institution
 30 governed or administered by the board.

31 If a proposal before the board affects an institution's
 32 academic program or if its estimated cost is \$100,000 or
 33 more, the bill requires that the board hold public readings
 34 of the proposal at two regular meetings of the board before
 35 taking action on the proposal. A quorum of the board must be

1 physically present at these meetings, and the proposal must
2 receive the affirmative vote of a majority of the membership
3 for any action to be taken on the proposal.

4 At least two members of the board shall hold public forums in
5 each of at least six geographic regions of the state quarterly.
6 Notice of a forum must be prominently posted on the board's
7 internet site at least two weeks prior to the date of the
8 forum.

9 Each regular board meeting shall begin with at least 30
10 minutes for public comment if requested by members of the
11 public. A member of the public shall be granted up to five
12 minutes to make comments and may be granted more time by a
13 member of the board.

14 The board must publish on its internet site specific
15 criteria for electing a president of a regents university.
16 The board must also adopt by rule the qualifications for
17 each job in the office of the board. The executive director
18 must post public notice of an open employment position on
19 the board's internet site at least two weeks before the
20 application deadline, and shall review the qualifications of
21 each applicant. The executive director shall not approve the
22 employment of an applicant whose qualifications do not meet the
23 minimum qualifications set by the board.

24 The bill includes conforming changes.